

THEA 103 - Theatre Technology

T/TH 4:00 – 5:15
Hamman Hall Auditorium
Spring 2013

Instructor: Matthew Schlieff
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Office Hours: by appointment (24 hr. notice)
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Goal:

The purpose of this class is to provide students with a basic understanding and practical hands-on training of the technical aspects of theatre. Each student will participate in discussions, exams, and class labs.

Objectives:

- Begin to understand backstage operating systems
- Gain knowledge of sound equipment and programs
- Gain knowledge of lighting instruments and hanging
- Gain knowledge of projection equipment and programs
- Transfer your knowledge gained to college theatre productions
- Learn basic design aspects
- Develop an overall respect for Technical Theatre

Required Textbook:

There will be a Text Packet labeled THEA 103 that will be provided for you and paid for with your lab fees

Lab Fee:

There will be a \$30 lab fee, which will cover the cost of reading materials and work materials.

Production Involvement Statement:

- In registering for this class, you are making a commitment to the Rice University theatre world. You are expected to honor this commitment by becoming a vital member of the production team, which is integral to the success of the theatre season.
- In addition to your text packet, you are required to have the following materials ready for lab sessions: Phillips & flat head screw driver, pencil, and crescent wrench.
- During each class session students are required to wear the proper clothing: Closed toe and heel shoes with hair tied back. NO FLIP-FLOPS or SKIRTS.

Students with Disabilities & Honor Code

A couple of our classes will take place outside of the regular classroom environment including:

Alley Theatre
Hamman Hall Upper Lobby
Hamman Hall Stage

Students with physical disabilities that would prevent them from attending classes in these locations are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible so that I can make the necessary arrangements for access.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class (please e-mail me at mschlief@rice.edu) and are encouraged to make an appointment with me as soon as possible so that I might work with you to make this class a successful experience. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

This class will function in accordance with the Rice Honor Code.

Class Policies:

- Regular class attendance is expected and required. Learning for this class is not just theoretical, but experiential. **If a student accumulates four absences, his or her final grade will be lower by one full letter grade. Every absences following will result in the continual lowering of grades.** If circumstances beyond a student's control happen after midterm and prevent him or her from attending the required amount of classes, a withdrawal may be considered with the approval of the department chair. The student must contact the instructor in order for this exemption to take place.
- Students are expected to stay the entire class period
- Tardiness is inconsiderate behavior. Please do your best to be on time.
- Mobile phones and laptops will be discussed on the first day of class.
- Class participation is required.
- Students are expected to complete assignments and take exams on time.

- **All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.**
- Students are responsible for finding out what was covered in class and completing any work assigned when they are absent.
- Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable. Any student discovered participating in these behaviors would receive at least a zero for the assignment. To obtain more information on possible sanctions, please familiarize yourself with the section on Academic Honesty in the Rice University handbook.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Course grades will be based on your performance on the items listed below. (Each assignment is described in detail later in this booklet.) Points possible for each assignment are noted, and the final grade is based on the percentage of possible points earned.

Written Exam 1	100
Practical Exam 1	100
Written Exam 2	100
Practical Exam 2	100
Reviews (25 each)	100
Practical Final 3 (TBA)	100
Total	600

Computation of the final grades is based on the following:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	90-100	540-600
B	80-89	480-539
C	70-79	420-479
D	60-69	360-419
F	00-59	below 359

Daily Schedule:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>
Tuesday	Jan 8	Introductions and Syllabus talk
Thursday	Jan 10	Electricity/Lamps
Tuesday	Jan 15	Instruments
Thursday	Jan 17	Instruments
Tuesday	Jan 22	Accessories
Thursday	Jan 24	Alley Tour
Tuesday	Jan 29	Light Board

Thursday	Jan 31	Light Board continued
Tuesday	Feb 5	Intelligent Lighting
Thursday	Feb 7	Trouble Shooting
Tuesday	Feb 12	Exam 1
Thursday	Feb 14	Project 1
Tuesday	Feb 19	Sound Theory & Equipment
Thursday	Feb 21	Sound Theory & Equip Cont.
Tuesday	Mar 5	Running a show
Thursday	Mar 7	Qlab
Tuesday	Mar 12	Qlab Guest Lecture
Thursday	Mar 14	Audacity
Tuesday	Mar 19	Guest Lecture by Sound Engineer
Thursday	Mar 21	Exam 2
Tuesday	Mar 26	Practical 2
Tuesday	Apr 2	Projection Theory
Thursday	Apr 4	Projectors and Computers
Tuesday	Apr 9	Final Cut Pro
Thursday	Apr 11	Qlab video
Tuesday	Apr 16	Work Day
Thursday	Apr 18	Exam & Project 3

Dates Subject to Change

Written Exams:

There will be three exams and a final given in this class. Each exam will cover many of the items in the book and things discussed in class. I will provide areas for your answer on the test booklet, so you are not required to provide a blue book. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Projects:

Following the day of the written exam, the practical exam will be a hands-on test showing your competency and skill of the tools used in creating stage magic. Each practical is worth 100 points.

Productions and tours:

The performances that are required offer you the opportunity to experience the many different types and production levels that you might find across the country. Some are small and some are huge, like most things in life. You are required to attend four productions and a tour. You will then write 4 reviews of the plays which you attend and the reviews are due no later than the last day of class. Here are a few theatres that I am recommending for you to see. I will also be announcing other shows in class, and I want each person to feel free to ask if another performance will count. Theatre is a vast art form. College theatre and other Rice student organization productions DO NOT count.

The Alley Theatre (www.alleytheatre.org)

Stages Repertory Theatre (www.stagestheatre.com)
Theatre Under the Stars (www.tuts.com)
Ensemble Theatre (www.ensemblehouston.com)
Main Street Theatre (www.mainstreettheater.com)
Horse Head Theatre (www.horseheadtheatre.org)
Stark Naked Theatre
Catastrophic Theatre
Mildred's Umbrella
Phoenix Theatre Co.

Tickets for these shows are to be purchased by you. Most of the Theatres offer Rice students a discounted rate. We will also have a tour of the Alley theatre Lighting Shop. This will be scheduled at the end of January.

If you have any questions feel free to call or swing by the theatre and see if I'm there. I am flexible.